



## SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

**Community Representatives:**

**Ken Carlson, Chair**

**Tom Lamar, Vice Chair**

**Charlie Denison, Secretary**

**Alex Anderson**

**Alex Epstein**

**Enid Kumin**

Alan Moore

**Brian Postlewaite**

**Brandon Stafford**

Sara Wasserman

Ian Woloschin

**Ex-Officio:**

Skye Stewart, Office of the Mayor

Matthew McLaughlin, Board of Aldermen

Commissioner Stanley Koty, Department of Public Works

Terry Smith, Traffic and Parking

Deputy Chief Stephen Carrabino, Police Department

**Adam Polinski, Office of Strategic Planning and Community Dev.**

Day/Date: Tuesday, October 18, 2016

Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Location: City Hall Basement Lounge

**Procedural and General Business - 15 min**

1. Guest introductions and sign-in sheet
  - a. Andreas Wolfe
  - b. Heath Cox
  - c. Michael Flanarty
  - d. Tom Bertulis
  - e. Emily Balkam
  - f. Greg Shill
  - g. Josh McGrath
2. Acting Secretary: (Alex A)
3. Quick refresher on minute taking and adding guests
  - a. Ken provided a quick refresher on taking minutes. The standard practice is to use the agenda template and taking notes within each section listed on the agenda. The draft minutes are due as Draft the Monday following the minutes. The minutes at uploaded to the SBC Box account and reviewed by committee members with tracked changes.
  - b. Adding guests has a new system. Just go to [www.somervillebikes.org](http://www.somervillebikes.org) and add guests email addresses to the "Subscribe to our Newsletter" dialog box. This will add guests to the SBC Mailchimp account.

- c. **Action item (Ken):** Establish system for communicating between SBC Members and Regular Attending Guests.
- 4. VOTE: Approve September Minutes
  - a. Motion was made, seconded, and approved by the Committee
- 5. Ex officio update
  - a. Skye Stewart will now be our new Ex-Officio Member from the Mayor's Office. Skye is Chief of Staff to the Mayor. Ken meet with Skye in early October and brought her up to speed on the Committee. Requested Rob King as Ex-Officio as well or someone else in his department (Capital Projects) with a strong engineering focus.
- 6. Meeting with the Mayor
  - a. Friday, November 4th 11:00am at City Hall
  - b. Ken working on Agenda and requests input from Committee members
- 7. Misc.
  - a. There is a potential for Somerville to have the first protected roundabout at Powderhouse Circle and is a possible project on the 5-10 year horizon. It is one of the potential projects the City is considering for Complete Streets Funding. Jennifer Molina previously applied for Complete Streets funding for this project. More information is available [here](#).
  - b. Utilize available city data on crashes involving pedestrians, bikes, and pedestrians to highlight priority intersections. The data includes absolute numbers of crashes but is not normalized for traffic. The data is segmented by vehicle type and could be used to identify proportion of trucks involved in crashes.
  - c. Safety materials on tabling should be updated.
  - d. **Action Item:** Alex to look into process for updating safety materials
  - e. **Action Item:** Brandon will find additional information related to the Powderhouse project and other projects that are being considered for Complete Streets Grants

**Focus: Porter Square Fatality- Ken/Tom - 20 min**

- Ghost Bike Ceremony
  - Ken knew Joe Lavins well and was heavily involved in honoring Joe and providing support through the Ghost Bike Ceremony
- Can we help in the re-design of Porter Square?
  - City of Cambridge reviewed 8 bike safety orders in the recent City Council meeting.
    - One proposal approves protected bike lanes from North Cambridge/Community Path into Harvard Square through Porter Square but doesn't address the current issue of having multiple southbound Mass Ave lanes split on Somerville Ave and Mass Ave.
    - **Action Item:** Ken will connect with Tegin to see if a recommendation from the SBAC on design for Porter would be considered by City of Cambridge.
  - Possible Ideas:
    - Redesign Roseland St. as contraflow or two-way lane to connect Mass Ave and Beacon to minimize the need for bikes entering Porter Square to turn from Mass Ave right onto Somerville Ave
    - Establish Porter Square as a protected intersection and focus on a redesign.
    - Consider bike-specific signals and timing
- What can we do to ensure this doesn't happen in Somerville?

- Temporal restrictions on 18 wheelers
  - The Committee asked if the City has reviewed this idea. Adam noted that the City has included this topic in previous discussions but hasn't dedicated significant time talking about the issue in depth.
- City-wide speed limit reduction
  - Proposal passed Board of Alderman. Still has to be approved by the Traffic Commission on November 17<sup>th</sup>, but this is not expected to be controversial
  - City wide default speed limit (the speed limit where no other signs are posted) reduction to 25 mph and safety zones that are 1/4 mile minimum (parks, schools, etc.) would be 20 mph.
- Protected bike lanes and protected intersections
  - Temporary bollards in near term?
- Additional Ideas:
  - Alex Epstein, Becca Wolfson (BCU), and Ken Carlson met and discussed possible options including additional education and training for truck drivers.
  - A possible connection with Teamsters- could possibly work with them to support additional training for drivers In addition could make requirements for cross over mirrors and truck side guards mandatory for contracts with the City.
  - Continue coordination and possible support efforts with Boston Cyclists Union.
  - City has petition program where 9 or more residents can make a recommendation for traffic calming efforts for Board of Alderman approval. City is reviewing proposals and are working with engineer to review traffic calming efforts.
- Attending Resistat meetings - SBC members should be in attendance representing their ward. Should interact with Alderperson. SBAC should consider presenting to the entire BOA.
  - Ward 5 - Oct 19
  - Ward 6 - Nov 20
  - Ward 7 - Dec 1
  - Ward 2 - Dec 2
  - Ward 1 - Dec 8
  - Ward 4 - Dec 14

**Update from City- Adam 30 min**

- Senior Transportation Planner position
  - Posted publicly last week and closes on Thursday, October 20. 12 current applicants have submitted resumes.
- Data
  - Somerstat- Mobility Data Dashboard
    - Moving forward. Mike Mastrovoni from SomerStat is taking lead and intending to present prototype using a program called Tableau to visualize the data. Plan in place. Mike and T&I are aligned in expectations on what will end up in dashboard and be available online for the public.



- Washington Street stretches will receive protected lanes in 2017
  - Broadway stretches will receive protected lanes in 2017
- 2016 Repaving – Highland Ave, Summer St, School St
  - Highland is continuing with striped bike lanes
  - Summer Street is moving forward as well. City is working with green cycle grip contractor before laying down thermoplastic. Should take place in the next few weeks.
  - Nothing was proposed on School Street. The City intends to install super-sharrows on School.
    - The City has made proposals for stretches of School. The SBC will re-share previous proposals with Adam.
- 2017 repaving plans
  - City meeting after winter of 2016/2017 to discuss repaving plans in 2017. Including, Highland, Dane, and Summer.
  - Tom Lamar noted that last year's process of informal charrette review of plans was a successful approach and should be done again for 2017 but at an earlier stage of the process.
- Traffic calming program
  - New citywide speed limit
    - Standard city speed limit will now be 25 mph
  - Speed zones and safety zones
    - Safety Zones will be listed as 20 mph
    - Board of Alderman Public Safety Committee Meeting taking place at 6:00p in City Hall. SBC can also reach out by email to Aldermen Connelly, Rossetti, or McLaughlin.
  - Petition process can be used by residents to petition for speed limit reductions.

### **Team Updates- 60'**

- Encouragement- Alex 10'
  - Tour de Somerville in October
    - Ride will take place on Saturday, Oct 29 at 1:00pm starting at City Hall. Rain date on Nov 6. Enid is confirming Police escort.
    - Theme is Scout's Honored best of list. Will ride through the city to point out many of the winners of Scout's Honored with possibilities of stopping into one or two locations.
    - Tentative plan is to conclude at Aeronaut by 3:00pm
    - Somerville Scout is in communication with Alex to see how they can support the ride.
    - Possible Committee Participants: Volunteers are needed
  - Upcoming events
    - Illuminations Ride in December 2016 - date TBD, likely Saturday, December 17
- Evaluation and Planning- Tom 15'
  - Feedback on bike counts
    - Tracking all the information (Gender and Age brackets) leads to difficulty, confusion, and mis-entered data that needs to be corrected in real time.

- Ideas for improvement:
      - Drop gender collection for age 0-5 bracket
      - Drop age tracking all together
      - ID top 5 intersections to staff with multiple people to track more information.
    - Elm St Proposal
    - Gilman St contraflow design – Tom B
      - In previous meeting, Tom presented ideas for contraflow on Gilman Street which is in East Somerville near Pearl Street. The street includes an alternating one-way section
      - A research project on Hancock St. between Summer and Elm Streets near Porter counting traffic included 34% bike and 66% car road share. Half of bike users were contraflow. From research, a recommendation has been put forward to install a contraflow lane on Hancock. This can be used for justification for contraflow on Gilman because it works so well on Hancock. No conflicts, no swerving, no crashes.
      - **Action Item:** Motion was made to delegate Engineering Committee to review contraflow proposals for Hancock and/or Gilman, and upon acceptance of Engineering Committee, will submit to Executive Committee to be forwarded to City Officials. Motion was seconded and approved by the Committee.
- Engineering- 20'
  - Webster Ave Parking recommendation – Brandon / Brian
    - Recommendation letter drafted by team. Including:
      - Two-way travel lanes with protected bike lanes on each side with all parking removed.
      - One-way travel lane with protected bike lanes in both directions and parking on one side.
      - One-way travel lane with conventional bike lanes in both directions and parking on both sides.
      - Two-way travel lanes, remove one lane of parking, have bike lane in uphill direction towards Union Sq. and sharrows in downhill.
    - **Action Item:** Ken to add guest Andreas Wolfe to Engineering Google Group
  - Assembly path thank you letter - Alan
- Enforcement Committee
  - Ian Woloschin will no longer be able to lead the Enforcement sub team. Looking for a volunteer to lead this sub team. *[Note after meeting, Greg Shill be new Enforcement Team Lead]*
- Additional note for guests, all guests can join sub-committee teams and should inform the Chair of which team they would like to participate in if interested.

**Meeting adjourned 8:35 PM**